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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEA ANNOUNCES OVER \$9M IN ENERGY UPGRADES FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME MARYLANDERS

Energy efficiency grants will help families save money and assist non-profits serving low and moderate income Marylanders

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 8, 2014) . Today, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced awards for the FY2014 EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities grant program. The program assists local governments and not-for-profit organizations in funding energy efficiency projects specifically designed to assist low to moderate income individuals. It will help some 5,000 Maryland households save 5,000 MWh of electricity and more than 450M cubic ft. of natural gas each year. Overall, these energy conservation measures are expected to save more than \$1 million annually.

These grants will reduce energy bills for families in every county throughout the state, said Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. Ultimately, all Marylanders benefit from this program because it moves us closer to achieving our EmPOWER Maryland goal of a 15% reduction in Maryland's energy consumption by 2015.

Sixty-two projects will be funded through the Clean Communities program. Grantees will use the funds to set up energy efficiency measures in senior housing, homeless shelters, and buildings housing Head Start programs. Moreover these grants will bring much need aid to housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, dedicated low-income housing, and low to moderate income homes, among other projects. Each Maryland county was provided an allocation based on their number of low-to-moderate income households. A Statewide Competitive platform designed to help entire buildings, neighborhoods or communities was added this year. Of the 62 grants awarded, 13 were made to new applicants. A detailed list of grants awarded is attached with the official list on the program website.

Program funding is provided by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which was created from public auction of carbon credits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

For more information on the program, please visit:

<http://www.energy.state.md.us/Govt/empowercleanenergycommunities.html>.

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence.